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Aug 29th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am a long time Sonic customer, and this company, Sonic, is building a better internet for America.

They connected me first with DSL technology over unbundled AT&T copper lines, and now they are building their own gigabit fiber network to as many locations as quickly as they can. Today one third of Sonic customers are connected with Sonic fiber. That's how the 1996 Telecommunications Act is supposed to work: enabling competitive market entry and encouraging new network deployment.

But AT&T and their trade association, US Telecom, have recently petitioned the FCC to take away access to critical unbundled network elements. These unbundled elements are critical last-mile copper and inter-city fiber; the very technology that allowed Sonic to grow, expand fiber deployment, and compete. Without access to this infrastructure, Sonic is at risk of losing access to a huge portion of their customer base, including me! This will lead to higher rates, less fiber deployment, and even less options for consumers (I was a former Comcast customer, and their service was slow, clumsy, and had to be bundled with cable TV, which I did not want.)

Thanks to competitive telecommunication laws, Sonic has been able to build and connect tens of thousands of members on their own fiber network. But, that's only a portion of their customer base. Please insure that companies like Sonic are given needed continued access to copper as a bridge to fiber so that they can get me, and everyone else, connected to the fastest, most affordable internet available.

Sincerely,

Lynn Guest